(c) the details of the benefits accruing from the setting up of the gas grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Gas pipeline is laid according to the gas availability, the location of production centres and customers. In light of the limited availability of natural gas in the country, gas pipeline has been laid connecting the limited production centres to the customers situated in relative proximity. The requirement, transportation methods and purposes for which natural gas is used are different from that of power. Therefore, the Government is not planning to set up a national gas grid on the lines of power grid.

A number of companies, including GAIL (India) Limited, Gujarat State Petronet Limited (GSPL) in the public sector and Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTIL) in the private sector, are at present laying pipeline infrastructure for transportation of gas linking production centres to demand centres, in various parts of the country. To regulare the same and to encourage investment in the sector, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'.

Private oil companies for retail outlets

†1593. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted oil companies under private sector for setting up of petrol and diesel outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any policy for giving permission to oil companies under private sector;

(d) if so, the details of such oil companies which have been given permission;

(e) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets set up by each of the said companies, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) whether all such oil companies are complying with the norms stipulated by Government; and

(g) if not, the way Government are ensuring compliance of such stipulated norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government have issued detailed guidelines for granting authorization to market transportation fuels, namely, Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to new entrants including the private sector, through its Resolution of 8th March, 2002.

Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to four private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL), M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL) and M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL). The State-wise number of Retail Outlets (ROs) set up by RIL, EOL and SIMPL as on 1.3.2007, is shown in the Statement. (*See* below). However, RPL have not set up any RO in the country so far.

(f) and (g) The private companies have not been able to fulfill their obligation for setting up of atleast 5.6% of their ROs in remote areas and atleast 5.3% of their ROs in low service areas due to certain reasons. The position in this regard is monitored to ensure fulfilment of these obligations also.

Statement

State-wise number of retails outlets set up by RIL, EOL and SIMPL.

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name of private company		
		RIL	EOL	SIMPL
1	Andhra Pradesh	129	73	3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	8	-
3	Assam	18	17	-
4	Bihar	25	28	-
5	Chhattisgarh	15	-	-
6	Gujarat	236	179	-
7	Haryana	46	51	-
8	Himachal Pradesh	7	-	-

Sl. No.	State/UT	Name of private company		
		RIL	EOL	SIMPL
9	Jharkhand	33	27	-
10	Karnataka	75	64	14
11	Kerala	40	30	-
12	Madhya Pradesh	84	94	-
13	Maharashtra	144	155	1
14	Manipur	-	4	-
15	Meghalaya	6	4	-
16	Mizoram	-	1	-
17	Nagaland	1	3	-
18	Orissa	41	32	-
19	Punjab	77	52	-
20	Rajasthan	106	82	-
21	Sikkim	-	1	-
22	Tamil Nadu	91	54	14
23	Tripura	1	1	-
24	Uttar Pradesh	132	151	-
25	Uttaranchal	11	-	-
26	West Bengal	49	37	-
27	Pondicherry	-	1	-
	TOTAL	1367	1149	32

Checking of adulteration of petroleum products

1594. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to increase the number of mobile laboratories to check adulteration of petroleum products and to provide petroleum product testing facilities at stationary labs in Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati and Kurnool to expedite petro products analysis reports; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL) (a) and (b) It is reported by Department of Consumer Affairs that they have received a request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide 121 mobile laboratories